

ON REREADING YOUR LETTER OF 08-30-1984 WHICH ARRIVED AT NOON TODAY,  
September 1, 1984.

How surprised and delighted I was to get so soon after my visit your wonderful letter.

Getting back to normal means for me not only returning 'home' after the week in Carbondale but also a return to a life of clarity and order, and without turbulence, because Tina has gone and that phase of my life is over. For years she has been pursuing me and for years I have been trying to elude her. When I finally succumbed and allowed her to move in here with me I had it in mind that I would pursue a relationship that would lead to marriage and children. Now that the relationship with her is dead I realize that what I did was without my knowing it at the time the most efficient way to get rid of her once and for all.

The dog, who sits at my feet doing her ablutions and occasionally insisting on some attention, will get a new name. I have always called her Pooch and I think that will be it.

You say in your letter (08 - 30 - 1984, page 1) " . . . The remainder of the evening and much of yesterday were devoted to once again 'getting control' of the multitude of sensations/papers/realia that had there accumulated during the preceding 10-day period." What means "realia" ?

The Jean Colville dream is a scream. But what does it mean. Surely there is a sexual level, but on a deeper level perhaps the dream means that Jean should/ought to take better care of Robert. Perhaps she will do something generous to/for you.

I wonder why Marge Treat didn't come to the August 26th celebrations.

Joseph Strand seems like a very nice guy and I'm sure you two have very much in common. I hope he takes an active role in our annual celebrations.

I was surprised to read that you sent a copy of your CHS&M newsletter to Fayette ?

I thought you had flushed her down the drain and out of your address book.

How curious and wonderful that Bill Weinstein should come to you for the Labor Day weekend.

You call your "one-seater" the "Palazzo Gondolfo". Why ? You know there is a Palazzo Gondolfo in Florence, I assume ?

On page two you refer to the plant given to you by Kim Palko as a "Green Lefe Ivy". Guess who has jumped on to my lap as I type and waggles her tail and licks and paws at my typing hands, and how barks ? I will make her wait until I finish this second reading of your letter before we go for our perambulation.

"Lefe" seems to be a rather peculiar spelling of leaf, is it not ?

Kim Palko referred to you as "cool". I suppose you are but the word would be quite far down any list of words I would use to describe you.

Guess who has returned with an even greater sweetness and determination for some direct attention.

Didn't you meet John V. B. in the Carbondale Public Library, also ?

The shortest distance between two points is to 'give in'. The pleasant persistence of Pooch finally overcame me and I succumbed, and at 5:30 PM on a Saturday night in Chester, PA, on Nineteenth Street, the main event is the Saturday service at the Catholic Church at the intersection of 19th and Providence.

Just reading about a visit from Bubemlak-le-pere makes my palms sweat. How considerate of him. What is his ulterior motive ?

And then a visit from Cousin Peg. It is now late Saturday afternoon and you say you and Bill might stop by for a swim at Apokeepsink then. How nice, how very nice, it would be to go somewhere socially in the Carbondale area, especially somewhere pleasant, and, most extraordinary of all, with a member of the family (in this case, Peg).

Always when I am there the time is spent with business and obligations.

I too have gathered some information for a write-up of the August 26 celebrations.

Labor Day, Monday, September 3, 1984

Dear Mom and Dad,

It is over with Tina and I and there will be no wedding on October 20, 1984.

The 'monkey is off my back' and I have never been so sure that I have done the right thing. We had been having problems for some time and instead of getting better they kept getting worse. Many times before she has left or threatened to leave and I have asked her to stay or begged her to stay.

This time I knew before she left that I was going to let her go and say nothing.

She was more trouble than she was worth. Now I want the whole thing over as quickly and as cleanly as possible.

If I'm so smart why can't I ever make anything work out right for me.

Maybe I'm not so smart as I think I am, maybe I'm not working hard enough. Maybe I've had a lot of bad luck.

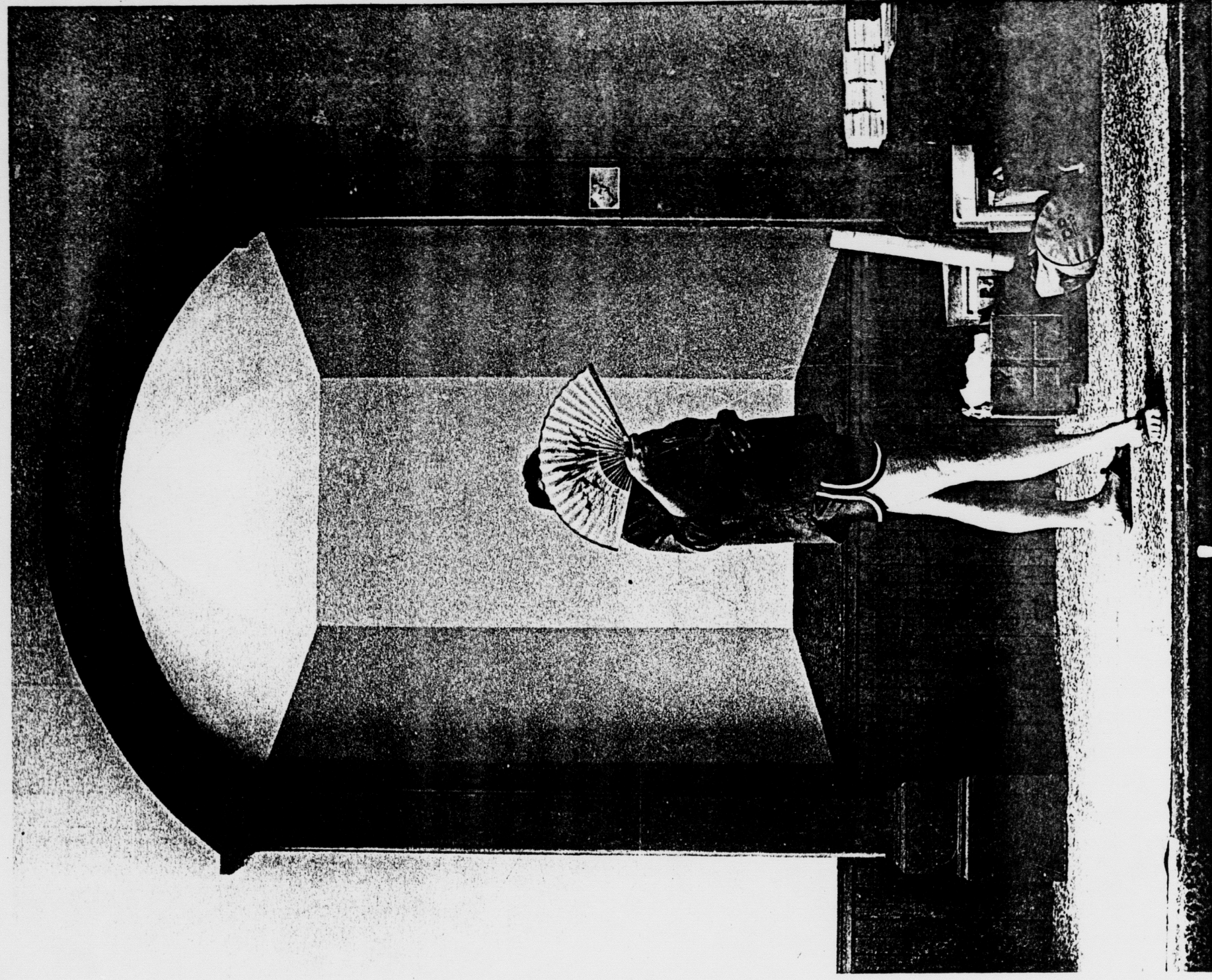
Anyway, I am now going to finish my Ph. D. so that when the academic year is over (in June 1985) I will be able to keep my job at Widener for another year, or perhaps even get another job. I would like to live in northeastern Pennsylvania, somewhere closer to home, and I am going to do my best to find a job teaching art history at some college or university somewhere near there, so that I can buy or rent a place and stop paying the outrageous rent that I must pay here, \$325 per month, plus utilities and phone and food. Imagine -- \$3900.00 per year. In the four years I have been here I have paid almost \$12,000.00 in rent and if I had to walk out of here tomorrow what would I have to show for it -- NOTHING. I should have attempted to buy this place when I first moved here but there was (and is) always the same old problem -- I can never get far enough ahead so that I can afford a downpayment, or even a mortgage. In the four years that I have been working here I have managed to pay off my 1st National Bank, Carbondale, loan, but I still have a long way to go on my Columbia University loan. And on top of all that I have a bank balance of about \$4000.00. I know you both think that I have lived my life the wrong way and have made all the wrong decisions and that I do not work very hard at anything.

I am sorry that I did not spend any time with you, or with Russell and his family when I was there but I couldn't. I had problems of my own and more than enough to do with helping S. Robert in Carbondale with Pioneer Week, and with doing a large amount of the work in the organizing and running of the Clinton Center Baptist Church and the Griswold Reunion. I don't even feel like I had a vacation.

There are days when I feel like putting the dog on the leash and starting out for a walk and walking and walking and never coming back, and today is one of them.

Love, Don.

09-06-84-P.1



↑ X-ray photograph of SRP at Eckman taken by DWP.

09-06-84-P.2

Before you loose track of these papers and set them aside

would you do me, and the rest of the Griswolds this favor.

SIT DOWN NOW and fill out the numbered identification chart

( herewith attached )

as best you can

and send it to me

In the enclosed self-addressed and stamped envelope

so that I can prepare a master list of the identifications.

Thank you.

Robert -

No changed self-addressed envelope for you.

I apologize for the

inclusion of the

list on the third

photo concerning

the picture.

All the people on the

list on the left

got this photo

and the following

too.

1 SRP

3 Gloria Johnston

1 George Pazel

1 Verla C. Arnold

1 Beatrice Bartholomay

1 Mildred LaBarre

2 Norman and Allice Lund

1 Helen Gilles

1 Stephen Gravalec

1 Verna C. Varcoe

1 Doris C. Howell

1 Margaret R. Rude

1 Gertrude Snyder

1 Cecil Butler

1 Mr. Orsman no dent

1 Mr. Bullock no dent